SHORE LINE

RCDHAC NEWSLETTER

VOL. II NO. 3 DECEMBER, 1994

THE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE SALISBURY-WICOMICO COUNTY AIRPORT

Alvin Garrison, Staff Archivist for RCDHAC, has a work in progress of interest to many of the local residents of Wicomico county: the airport.

Formed in 1943, the Salisbury-Wicomico airport has been a vital part of the Lower Shore's economic and social development. A brief history of the airport was completed in 1960 by Ronald W. Owens, but has not been updated to include the last 34 years.

Mr. Garrison was asked to work on this project by Sylvia S. Bradley, who had been contacted by a group of local businessmen involved with airport's growth over the years. They felt the need for a complete history of the airport to be done, highlighting the important progress that it, and the community of Salisbury has made.

If there is anyone who was involved with the airport during these formative decades or has been impacted by the growth and development of the site, please contact Alvin Garrison at 410-543-6312.

MONDAY NIGHT VOLUNTEERS

The Center would like to thank Jeff Pilchard for, once again, organizing the Monday night volunteers. He has completed a schedule up through the month of January, 1995. The hours are the same as usual, every Monday from 3-9, with the exceptions of holidays.

BEWARE GRAVE-DIGGERS!!

Effective October 1, 1994 graves and funerary objects contained within the sites are protected with the passage of House Bill 141. The penalty for trespassers, vandals, and looters was established with a maximum fine of $5000 and one year imprisonment.

Professor Sylvia S. Bradley of RCDHAC told WBOC-TV16 reporters that the new law will help protect and preserve these sites, and allow for historians and archaeologists to research living patterns of past Eastern Shore residents and material culture.

"Archeographer" Atwood Barwick, co-writer of the law, sees it as a stepping-stone toward a federal law banning interstate trafficking of funerary objects and all artifacts over one hundred years old.

TALKING THROUGH THE PHOTOS: FOLKLORE AND PHOTOGRAPHY

On Monday, October 16, Dr. Polly Stewart delivered a public address at the Guerrieri Center, Salisbury State University, on relations between folklore and photography. The lecture was given in conjunction with the exhibit, "Wootten's Delmarva," on display in the Guerrieri Center's Atrium Gallery for the month of October.

Dr. Stewart noted three major ways in which folklore and photography intersect. One is in the use of photography by professional folklorists as a means of documenting folk traditions in the field-- a part of the work of the folklore specialist. A second is seen in the display of regional and occupational traditions by a professional art photographer (such as Orlando Wootten) who chooses his or her own subjects. Also included would be someone who is not a folklorist, but who has an eye for folk traditions and a flair for capturing on film those traditions that lend themselves to photographic depiction (as seen in "Wootten's Delmarva".) The third of the three intersections of folklore and of photography is of perhaps greatest interest to the non-professional person who pursues family and local history. Local, neighborhood, club, family, and personal history can be brought to the fore and made accessible for preservation on tape and disk.

Subsequent to the October 16 lecture, Dr. Stewart provided amplifying information on the "third intersection" for inclusion in the present article: Third-intersection work, she indicated, is useful for anyone who wishes to elicit large amounts of oral information from a knowledgeable person on subjects depicted in photographic resources found in the home or workshop, including both studio portraits and home snapshots. Anyone can make use of them; no advanced training or technical expertise is required.

The process might be called "talking through the photographs." It is based on the simple theory that anyone who looks at a photograph album or series of photographs who knows anything about the pictures will readily --all other things being equal-- tells the stories he or she knows in connection with the pictures, so long as the opportunity to talk is provided in a spirit of good will and with a commonly understood shared purpose --the preservation of oral history.

The major *resource* in this endeavor is the family or club photograph album and the assemblage of family or club photographs displayed on the mantel, piano or organ in many living rooms and home workshops. The *setting* for doing the research is the home or the workshop of the interviewee, generally a senior family member or senior club

member. The *procedure* is simply to open the photo album or assemble the framed pictures, and let the knowledgeable party "talk through the photographs," telling the story of each. The interviewer stands by attentively but unobtrusively during this process.

The only *equipment* needed is a recording device and perhaps a pad and pencil for the interviewer to jot down ideas or questions unobtrusively as the interview progresses. The only *skill* needed on the part of the interviewer is the ability to run the recording device properly and to listen attentively, interjecting questions and observations only when it appears that the interviewee has completed his or her story about their photograph.

Dr. Stewart indicated that many families and clubs have a tremendous oral history resource in photographs which can be tapped by means of the techniques above. Anyone wishing further information or advice is welcome to call the Research Center at 410-543-6312 and leave a message for Dr. Stewart, who will return all messages, she says, in a timely fashion.

RESEARCH CENTER APPLIES FOR GRANTS

In October and November the Research Center filed applications with the National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Historic Publications and Records Commission for two major grants.

The NHPRC grant requests a total of $34,000 for assistance in professionally processing of five large collections of papers and records held by the Center. Each collection has some particularly unique value and are generally significant in the development and growth of the Delmarva peninsula. The five collections are the Miles and Shockley Surveys' Papers, the Parker/Hearn family collections of deeds, patents, and inventories related to one family's life tenure on the Eastern Shore since the 1600s, the John Jacob Collection, a collection of valuable historical maps, store ledgers, diaries, private papers, legal documents and historical manuscripts; the Joseph Bailey Papers, the papers and records of a prominent lower Shore jurist in the early 1900s; and the Old School Baptist Collection, a collection of manuscripts, journals, rare books, photographs, church minutes and records of several Old School Baptist churches on Delmarva.

The project, if funded, would hire an archivist for one year to process these records, create a finding guide to them so they could be available to researchers, and hire a professional conservationist as a consultant who would advise on work needed to preserve these papers. Work would begin in July 1995 and continue through June 1996.

The second grant to NEH would run for 18 months, beginning July 1995, and would survey private holders and local repositories in six Delmarva counties in order to identify papers, records, manuscripts, photos, relating to the history African Americans in this region since the 1600s, with an emphasis on 19th and 20th centuries. The six counties are Sussex, Dorchester, Wicomico, Worcester, Somerset, and Accomack. As

collections of papers are found, the archival staff hired for this purpose would encourage the owners to donate or offer for copying the materials to a local repository, including the Research Center. In addition, individuals who might be identified as especially good sources of oral histories or folklore would be put in contact with persons trained in collecting oral histories so that they might interview them. Guide to all the records discovered would be printed and published.

This is a major undertaking, and comes at a time when a major state-wide effort is being made to collect artifacts and objects which could be placed in a Maryland African American Museum in Baltimore. The Research Center will work with this group and coordinate efforts to save the history of African Americans in this area. The grant requests $74,700 and would bring in an archivist to guide the project to a successful completion.

Decisions on funding these two projects will be made in February. So, until then, keep your fingers crossed! Also, if you have information which you think would be helpful regarding either of these projects please contact us at the Center at 410-543-6312.

FROM THE REGISTRAR'S DESK

For the months of September and October RCDHAC had 336 patrons use the facilities. 128 of these patrons were conducting genealogical work. The primary source used most frequently are the Leslie Dryden papers. A close second are the transcribed census, land, and tax records. Also in the running are the Joseph Brown Turner papers highlighting families from Sussex and Kent counties of Delaware.

208 students used the Center in some way or another during September and October. We gave four tours to classes, three pro-seminar and Women's history. The response from the students was excellent. As a result of those tours we now have reports being conducted on Whitehaven, Patty Cannon, and the fires of Salisbury during the 19th century. In addition to those students, we have student researchers coming from the Colonial America class, taught by our very own Professor Sylvia Bradley. For example, one student is investigating the role of the Nanticoke Indians on Delmarva. We have a class meeting bi-weekly in the reading room, Archival Management, which has also boosted our numbers.

These numbers are encouraging to our development and for future endeavors. Thanks to everyone.

NEW VOLUNTEER

We would like to welcome our newest volunteer, Thomas Bednarczyk. Tom is a senior at SSU majoring in History. Originally from Baltimore, Tom now lives in Ocean City. His career objectives include archival research and preservation, education at the secondary level, and as a guide for the National Park Service.

Tom's community involvement has been devoted to the Boy Scouts of America. While working with the youth of the community, he has attained the rank of Eagle Scout and has held various positions such as Assistant Scoutmaster, Troop Historian, and Committee member. The highlights of his work with the BSA include two trips to Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, New Mexico where he has backpacked over 120 miles through the Sangra De Cristo Range of the Rocky Mountains.

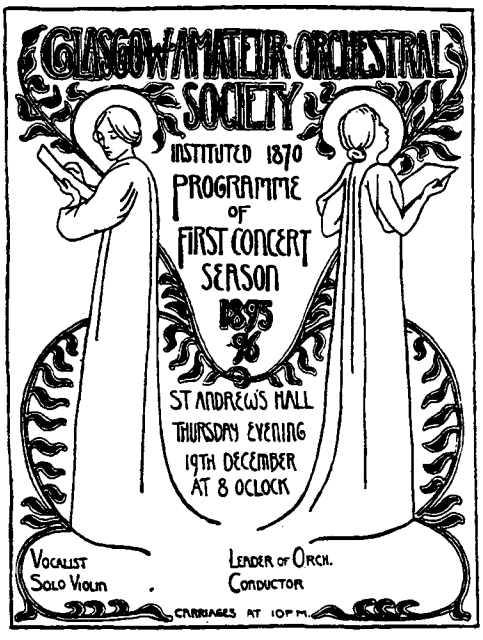
As a student at SSU Tom has written papers on "The Early Development of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal" and "The Election Campaign of 1860 on the Eastern Shore of Maryland," which he read at the college's Spring History Symposium.

Tom's current projects at the research center involve cataloging the Special Collections, and assisting with the newsletter. Tom is eager to meet the Friends of the Center and will assist you in any way possible.

WOOTTEN EXHIBIT OPENS ON SSU CAMPUS

The Research Center is proud to announce that the exhibit, "Wootten's Delmarva" was a big hit. With partial funding from the Maryland Humanities Council, the Center was able to provide a quality show that was enjoyed by all. We hope that everyone was able to view the exhibit. If not, RCDHAC has published a book to accompany the exhibit. The exhibit contained approximately 45 photographs and ran for the month of October. We hope that everyone was able to view the exhibit. If not, RCDHAC has published a book, Wootten's Delmarva, that contains the photographs featured in the exhibit and forty additional ones.

Wootten's Delmarva is on sale at the Research Center and also local bookstores. A valuable resource into the folklife of Delmarva or as a wonderful coffee table book, Wootten's Delmarva makes an ideal Holiday gift for those who love the Delmarva peninsula. For information on the book, please call 410-543-6312.



Clara Gunby Papers Donated to Center

Among the recent collections donated to the Research Center the Clara Gunby Papers stand out as especially significant. For those who may not know, Clara Gunby was a particularly outspoken Southern sympathizer during the Civil War who lived in Forktown (now Fruitland) in Somerset (now Wicomico) County, Maryland. Her behavior during an age when most women were expected not to be involved in politics and public affairs has led some scholars to label her as an early feminist. Eventually her sharp tongue and resistance to Union Army authority in the area earned her a stay in Fortress Monroe in Virginia.

To the delight of scholars she kept a diary or journal for many of these most active years, and although parts of it have been lost much remains. Salisbury State University students already have begun studying the journal as well as letters and other papers in the collection and at least one research paper has developed from it thus far. We expect more to come.

Clara Gunby's papers are just one series in a very large collection donated by Mr. George Hann, who was once married to a descendant of Clara Gunby and has been collecting Gunby family papers for more than twenty years. The entire collection, accessioned as the Gunby Family Collection, also contains many genealogy charts and lines, school papers, books, and numerous other materials. The importance of this collection cannot be overstated.

Your financial support is needed to enable us to continue to provide student and community access and use of this facility. Won't you help by sending a check today?

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____

STATE_____ **ZIP**_____ **PHONE**_____

___ Founding Patron $500
includes lifetime membership in Friends of the Center
___ Benefactor $250

___ Friend of the Center $25

___ Donor [up to $25]

___ I am interested in volunteering to work in the Center. Please phone or write me.

Payment enclosed____ Bill me _____

Please make checks payable to SALISBURY STATE FOUNDATION, and write RCDHAC in the note space on your check.

Mail to:

Research Center for Delmarva History &Culture
Power Professional Building
Salisbury State University
Salisbury, Md. 21801

phone: 410-543-6312
FAX: 410-543-6068

UPCOMING RCDHAC EVENTS FOR 1995

The coming of the new year will bring with it new and exciting events sponsored by the Center. February will feature an in-house exhibit at the Center, "Valentines From Yesteryear." In the same month we will also feature a lecture on the Great Depression and the impact it had on Delmarva. March will see the first of a four-part, "brown-bag" luncheon series. The film, *Chesapeake Planter,* will be shown followed by a brief discussion. In May we will present "VE Day Remembered," which will feature guest speakers on their memories and recollections from the war. We celebrate education on Delmarva with the September edition, "School Days on Delmarva." In November, we will look at "Shooting for Sport and Money," just in time for hunting season. The registration fee is $2.50 for each program. We are offering a 10% discount for AARP members who register for all of the programs, a total cost of $9.00! The same offer will be extended to our Friends of the Center. There will be coffee and tea provided. Please call the Center for details on the location and times of each event.

The month of April will be a time for all of us to polish up our computer skills. The Center will be hosting a workshop "Making Friends with your PC Genealogy Program." With so many different programs for genealogy out on the market, we felt it was time to analysis what was out there, why to use it, and how it can be beneficial to our genealogical work. This will be a one-day workshop focusing on four of the most popular genealogical programs on the market. We need everyone's assistance in narrowing down our list of potential programs. Enclosed in this newsletter is a questionnaire on the types of programs you are currently using, satisfaction with them, etc. We are asking that you take a few minutes to fill these out so that we may provide a workshop that will target everyone's interest and curiosity. Enclosed with the questionnaire is a registration form that will reserve your space for the 22nd of April. The fee for this workshop will be $15.00 for Friends of the Center, students, and faculty and $20.00 for non-members. We encourage all to attend!

May, September, and November will feature changing exhibits in the Research Center reading room. June, July, August, and December are months in which we will feature special hours due to the closing of the regular SSU semesters.

We are all very excited for the upcoming year and looking forward to seeing everyone at some of these special events!

If you are interested in attending this workshop would you answer the following questions so that we might plan on including the software programs which are of most interest to our participants?

1. Do you currently own a genealogy program for your computer? Yes___ No___
   If yes, which program is it? _____
   Do you actually use this program in recording and analyzing your genealogical data? Yes____ No____ Sometimes, but I would like to use it more.____

2. If you use your program seldom or infrequently, is it because:
   you don't know how to use it as well as you would like to? Yes ___ No___
   you have a program that is incompatible with your computer? Yes ___ No___
   you find it confusing and difficult to use? Yes___ No___
   you have never taken the time to really use the instruction manual? Yes___ No___

3. If you use your program frequently and feel really comfortable with it, would you be willing to conduct one of the workshop sessions to explain its uses and advantages to others? Yes____ No____ Maybe. _____
   If you would not like to present one of the sessions, would you know someone whom you would like to recommend in your place? Yes____ No____

4. Is there other information you would like to share that would help us plan this workshop so that it would be a valuable experience for you?_____
   _____
   _____
   _____

_____

____ YES, I WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND THE WORKSHOP ON THE 22ND OF APRIL, 1995 AND I HAVE ENCLOSED MY FEE $20